

PATENT

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On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 11-20 were allowed in view of the references on record. The Examiner stated "that the cited art did not teach a leather grained layer located between a pair of raised lateral side edges," such as required in claim 11.

Applicant has now amended independent claims 1 and 8 to require a pair of raised side edge portions or raised lateral side edges, and that the leather grained layer be disposed between these side edges or side edge portions. Claims 4, 5 and 10 have been amended to correct minor ambiguities resulting from these amendments.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the present Application is respectfully requested and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Date: 5/14/01

Respectfully submitted,


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